

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 09255 212026Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DHA-05 /041 W
-----072924 212030Z /64

P 212021Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5129
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 09255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, PIN, CA, CH, CVIS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF CANADIAN-PRC FAMILY REUNIFICATION
PROGRAM

REF: STATE 249644

1. IN 1973 THE GOC NEGOTIATED "AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES
CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT ON VISA MATTERS" WITH THE PRC
CONSISTING OF A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING ON CONSULAR MATTERS,
AN UNDERSTANDING COVERING THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES
AND BILATERAL VISA ARRANGEMENTS.

2. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT ALMOST 3,000 PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXIT PERMITS FROM THE PRC TO JOIN
FAMILIES IN CANADA. GENERAL FEELING IN DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EXTAFF) EXPRESSED BY JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM
(CHINA DESK OFFICER AT TIME OF HUANG'S VISIT), D.
DHAVERNAS (PRESENT CHINA DESK OFFICER) AND DEREK BURNEY
(SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO EXTAFF SEC OF STATE JAMIESON) IS
POSITIVE. DHAVERNAS REGARDS THE 3,000 FIGURE AS "A
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PRETTY HIGH NUMBER SINCE NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS MANAGED
TO GET THAT MANY PEOPLE OUT OF THE PRC."

3. GOC, HOWEVER, IS INTERESTED IN SPEEDING UP THE
REUNIFICATION PROCESS SINCE CURRENT TIME PERIOD FOR
GRANTING EXIT PERMITS CAN VARY FROM 3 WEEKS TO ONE YEAR,
DEPENDING ON WHIM OF LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL PRC AUTHORITIES

WHO MAKE DECISIONS.

4. JAMIESON EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO HUANG FOR THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN CANTON AND PEKING AND HOPE THAT PROCESS OF REUNIFICATION COULD BE SPEEDED UP IN OTHER PROVINCES IN THE FUTURE. ACCORDING TO BURNEY, THE SUBJECT WAS PRESENTED TO HUANG IN "HUMANITARIAN TERMS", THOUGH CARE WAS TAKEN NOT TO USE PHRASE "HUMAN RIGHTS". ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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